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THOMPSON, W. GILMAN. *The Occupational Diseases*. Pp. xxvi, 724. Price, \$6.00. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1914.

The author sums up the purpose of this book in his preface:

"This work which is the first of its kind to be published in this country is designed primarily for physicians interested in the subject of the occupational diseases of modern life, and also as a guide to students of social economics, social service workers, insurance actuaries, and those whose special interests deal with problems of labor legislation, or with workers in the chemical, textile, and many other manufactures or trades in which the health of the worker is closely related to problems of efficiency and humanitarian effort."

The book is divided into seven parts which deal respectively with: (1) history, classification, general pathology and etiology, (2) general remedial measures, (3) diseases due to irritant substances, (4) diseases due to harmful environment, (5) special occupational diseases, (6) influence of special conditions, (7) miscellaneous diseases not otherwise treated.

To the layman, the most interesting part is the one in which general remedial measures are discussed. The presentation of the place and purpose of educational measures affecting the employer, workman, physician, public and the press is particularly suggestive. No less able is the treatment of the hygiene of the work place and that of the workman.

Almost one-half of the pages are devoted to the diseases caused by toxic substances such as metals, gases, fluids and dusts. Here each substance is separately considered under the various headings of mode of poisoning, symptoms, prognosis, prevention and treatment. Usually the process of manufacture in which the danger is met is explained.

In another part the author presents in detail the reaction of the various organs to specific poisons. Prophylaxis and treatment are emphasized throughout.

The appendix contains interesting summaries. Many dangerous substances are tabulated under harmful substance, industry where prepared and used, mode of entrance into body and diseases or symptoms. Other tabular lists contain the industries in which workers are subjected to special hazard, and principal industries in which dust is the chief source of dangers.

The illustrations, tables and quotations are copious and illuminating.

The author has given us a valuable and much needed reference book. It should have increasing usefulness as a text book. It is a notable contribution to the literature of a very interesting and important subject.

ALEXANDER FLEISHER.

New York.

TILLET, ALFRED W. *Introduction to Herbert Spencer's Synthetic Philosophy*. Pp. xx, 177. Price 5/-. London: P. S. King & Son, 1914.

To the ponderous intellect of Herbert Spencer we are indebted more than to any other for the unification of human knowledge. His system of synthetic philosophy, despite its inadequacy and its positive errors, will remain one of the supreme achievements of the human mind. Yet the ten volumes with their more than six thousand pages are destined also to remain a colossal enigma

to the average reader or casual student. It is not a library to be "read." One might peruse volume after volume, concentrating attention on their specific contents and finding much obsolete material, without ever grasping the meaning of the whole.

We have in the contents of this volume a sincere and sympathetic effort to explain "what it is all about." Realizing that nowhere except in one single passage has Mr. Spencer performed this task, our author has undertaken it. He has endeavored to establish and substantiate by analysis of the principal doctrines Mr. Spencer's own claim that "The whole system was at the outset, and has ever continued to be, a basis for a right rule of life, individual and social." This little book will help materially rightly to evaluate Spencer's great work. It will help to shift the emphasis from controversies over immaterial fragments and to center attention upon "the main thing" which constitutes Spencer's real contribution to the sum of human knowledge and to the progress of human welfare.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

University of Pennsylvania.

WICKERSHAM, GEORGE W. *The Changing Order*. Pp. v, 287. Price, \$1.25. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914.

This book by a former attorney-general of the United States consists of a number of essays which originally were prepared for delivery as addresses on special occasions. The nature of the topics discussed is indicated by the chapter titles. These are: the progress of law; the state and the nation; college men and public questions; palimpsests; business and the law; engineering and culture; the study of law and the work of lawyers; recent interpretation of the Sherman act; further regulation of interstate commerce; results of the trust dissolution suits; federal control of stock and bond issues by interstate carriers; new states and constitutions; the theory of constitutional government in 1787 and 1912.

Considering the nature of the position formerly held by the author, perhaps the greatest interest will attach to his views as to the proper attitude of the government toward business. Mr. Wickersham clearly approves of the principle embodied in the Sherman act, and believes that the recent decisions of the supreme court in the standard oil and tobacco cases have demonstrated, perhaps for the first time, that the Sherman law is an effective weapon to the accomplishment of the purpose for which it was primarily enacted, namely, the dissolution of the great combinations familiarly known as trusts. He further believes that the unfair methods of competition resorted to in the past have been checked, and in large measure destroyed, with the result that the industrial field is open to fair competition and enterprise to a larger degree than for many years past; and that when the pending suits (November, 1912) against the great combinations have been terminated hardly any abnormally large combinations will be left intact.

The author, however, hardly regards the Sherman act alone as adequate for the solution of the trust problem. He suggests the prohibition of the holding company device, thus striking at the very root of the trust evil, but con-